

# ASSESSMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY NEWSLETTER

Issue XLVII, September 2018



## OSA/OEA Updates...

### Note from the Assessment Director



Welcome back to the new school year! We hope you all had a wonderful summer.

Many thanks to the Wisconsin educators who have participated in the Forward Exam Item Review and ACT Science Assessment Specifications Development meetings. Educator involvement in these important steps of the development process helps improve the quality of our assessments.

Information regarding the spring assessments will be sent to you through the upcoming DAC Digests. The Forward Exam, ACT suite, and DLM assessments will be administered during spring 2019. ACCESS for ELLs will be administered this winter. The Strategic Assessment projects including the SmartTeach application and the assessment and data literacy e-learning modules will continue to be developed this year through pilot programs across the state. Classroom teachers will provide feedback to help enhance and improve these resources so that DPI can provide the best possible products to Wisconsin educators.

Thank you for all the great work you do for our students' education. We look forward to working with all of you in the coming year.

*Viji Somasundaram*

Director, Office of Student Assessment (OSA)



## OSA Calendar...

### Important Dates

2018	
September	DLM update users in educator portal and deactivate users no longer in the district
September	DLM Moodle training is open and test administrators can start to go through their modules
October 1 - November 6	ACCESS Non-public schools pre-ID upload into WIDA AMS
October 10	Annual DAC and DTC update forms due to OSA
November 6	ACCESS materials orders are generated by DRC based-on pre-ID files
November 6	ACCESS DPI uploads public school pre-ID roster
November 13	ACCESS WIDA AMS test session setup opens
November 14	Forward technology coordinator training Webinar
November 29	ACCESS Districts receive test materials, Additional Materials Orders open
December 3	ACCESS for ELLs window opens
2019	
January 28 - March 8	NAEP window (for selected schools only)
February 1	ACCESS for ELLs window closes
February 20	ACT with writing - grade 11
February 20 - March 6	ACT with writing - grade 11 for students with accommodations
February 21	ACT WorkKeys - grade 11
February 21 - March 7	ACT WorkKeys - grade 11 for students with accommodations
March 12	ACT with writing - grade 11 makeup Day
March 12 - 18	ACT with writing - grade 11 makeup testing for students with accommodations
March 13	ACT WorkKeys - grade 11 makeup day
March 13-19	ACT WorkKeys - grade 11 makeup testing for students with accommodations
March 18 - May 3	Forward - ELA and mathematics grades 3-8, science grades 4 and 8, and social studies grades 4, 8, and 10
March 18 - May 3	DLM - ELA and mathematics grades 3-11, science grades 4 and 8-11, and social studies grades 4, 8, and 10
April 8- May 10	ACT Aspire grades 9-10

*Dates may be subject to change. Check the OSA calendar webpages for the most current dates throughout the year.*

## Forward Exam Update



Forward Exam student and summary reports were released to districts via eDIRECT June 22. Hard copies of individual student reports (ISRs) for the exam were delivered to districts by July 23. Forward data is under embargo until the DPI press release. However, ISRs should be shared with parents as soon as possible once received. A sample ISR cover letter is available on the [Forward Exam Data and Reporting webpage](#). Reporting of all assessment results regarding student data must meet FERPA requirements. The 2017-18 assessment data in the secure portal remain under embargo until the press release.

The Forward Exam New Item Review was held August 6–15, 2018. Approximately 70 Wisconsin educators were selected from an applicant pool to participate in the review. During this important step in the development of the Forward Exam, educators reviewed all newly created items for content, grade level appropriateness, link to the correct standard, bias and sensitivity issues, and cognitive complexity prior to placement on the exam. This great opportunity allowed educators to be a part of the assessment development, have detailed input about the items on the Forward Exam, and take knowledge back to their district about the item review process. Applications will be available in May to participate in the 2019 item review. Information will be provided in the DAC Digest, May Newsletter, and the [Forward Exam Educator Involvement webpage](#).

The [Forward Exam calendar webpage](#) will be updated with the 2018-19 test administration timeline/key dates by the end of September. Be sure to refer back to the calendar webpage regularly for any updates.

A Forward Exam Technology Training webinar will take place in November. More information will be available in the DAC Digest as the training approaches.

Please be sure all staff have access to the 2019 version of the [Forward Exam Accessibility Guide](#) which will be available by the end of September. It is critical that all staff, particularly Special Education teachers, and IEP teams, be aware of the allowable supports and accommodations for the Forward Exam.

## DAC and DTC Update Forms

Be sure to submit your annual DAC and District Technology Coordinator (DTC) update forms no later than October 10. The information provided is used to:

- ensure DACs and DTCs are on the email lists which will provide them with regular assessment updates throughout the year.
- upload DAC information into eDIRECT to ensure DACs have 2019 permissions to the portal.

DACs should remove eDIRECT access for individuals who are no longer employed by the district and adjust user roles to sync



## ACT High School Assessments Update



For the 2018-19 school year, grade 11 students will again be required to complete the ACT with writing and ACT WorkKeys in the spring. Students in grades 9 and 10 will be required to complete ACT Aspire Early High School. The assessment dates and windows can be found on the [ACT High School Assessments Calendar webpage](#).

Results from the 2017-18 administrations of all three assessments should have been received in districts in late spring/early summer and distributed to parents/students.

2018-19 highlights regarding test days and materials include:

- In 2019, the initial ACT state test date of February 20 is a Wednesday. The initial test date for WorkKeys is a Thursday, February 21.
- Schools and districts may choose to administer WorkKeys school-wide on the initial test day (February 21) or the makeup day (March 13). Test coordinators will need to make a manual selection in PearsonAccessNext in order to have materials shipped for the correct test date. Further instructions for selecting test dates in PearsonAccessNext will be sent via the DAC Digest and biweekly ACT emails.
- Emergency test dates are available in April for schools who have spring break conflicts or weather emergencies on the makeup dates in March.
- School test coordinators must manage their school's participation by selecting the correct test dates and ordering the correct materials in the PearsonAccessnext test administration portal. Materials are valid for only one test date or test window. For example, materials sent for the initial test date cannot be used for makeup testing. Another example is that standard materials cannot be used for accommodated testing. Please ensure that school test coordinators are ordering and using the appropriate materials for the appropriate test dates and type of testing.

- ACT test materials are specific to each test date and can only be used for that date (or window in the case of accommodations materials).
- Standard time materials can only be used for students testing without any accommodations. Students receiving any type of accommodation must use the accommodations materials, even if they test on the same day as standard testers.

For the ACT Aspire, district assessment coordinators should be accessing the portal (<https://www.actaspire.org/>) to verify the accuracy of the permission status for district and school users. DACs should remove access for individuals who are no longer employed by the district and to adjust permission roles for staff in new positions. Staff who serve as proctors and room supervisors should be assigned the role of "Educator".

Required tasks for administration of the ACT and ACT WorkKeys tests will begin in early November, 2018. The Test Accessibility and Accommodations system (TAA) as well as Pearson Access<sup>next</sup> (PANext) will be available at that time. Schools and districts will receive further communications about these processes, including a checklist of important tasks and deadlines, later this fall.

## Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Update



**DYNAMIC**  
LEARNING MAPS

Kite™ Student Portal has undergone changes that should make accessing testlets and information much easier for users. In order for all the updates to take effect, users must uninstall Kite™ Client and reinstall Student Portal. When users click on the previous icon for Kite™ Client, you will receive a message to go to the Kite™ Suite webpage of the Dynamic Learning Maps™(DLM) website to download Kite™ Student Portal.

All Individual Student Reports (ISRs) and electronic files have been provided to districts through Educator Portal. Please distribute the ISRs to families as soon as possible. If you are a new DAC and do not yet have access to Educator Portal, please make sure your information has been updated with OSA. All DLM user accounts remain

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### Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Update (Continued from page 3)

active in the portal. If a user has changed their name, email, or moved districts, do not create an additional account for this user. Please contact DPI for additional information on how to update this information. Student demographics and rosters from 2017-18 have been removed from the DLM Educator Portal. Districts will be required to re-upload this information based upon 2018-19 school year enrollments.

All test administrators must complete the required training and test security agreements prior to administering the DLM assessment and the optional instructional assessments (Instructional Tools Interface or ITI). These trainings will be accessed through Moodle (an online training website). Returning test administrators will be required to complete one module and quiz (approximately one hour and 25 minutes). New test administrators within the DLM system will be expected to complete four required modules and quizzes (approximately three hours). The training modules are now available. We encourage test administrators to complete their training as early as possible and not to wait until the test window to complete the modules.

New this year DLM will be hosting a series of professional development webinars to help teachers implement teaching strategies in their classrooms. DLM provides a number of modules to with strategies on how to teach students various concepts in English language arts (ELA), mathematics, and science. The webinars will provide more information on how to implement the teaching strategies from these modules into the classroom setting. More information will be coming in the DAC Digest as the date gets closer to the first webinar, which is scheduled for September 18.

Please contact [Mike Peacy](#) with any questions that you may have about the DLM assessment.



### ACCESS for ELLs® Update



WIDA has revamped their public and secure websites for the 2018-19 school year. There is a clean new look and navigation has been improved. The new URL for the public site is <https://wida.wisc.edu/> and the new URL for the secure site is <https://portal.wida.us>. You can also access the secure portal and the WIDA Assessment Management System (AMS) by clicking the "login" button on the main page of the public site. Although the old URLs will still work for the next year, you may want to bookmark the new URLs now.

All current user accounts have been migrated over to the new secure website. Some materials that were previously available on the public site are now housed on the secure site. For example, information for District Technology Coordinators (DTCs) is now housed on the secure site (and is also available on the WIDA AMS). DACs and the WIDA Helpdesk can create new accounts for district staff if needed to access secure materials.

WIDA has also released improved resources to support family engagement. The resources are aimed at helping educators strengthen connections to families to support multilingual students' language learning and overall success. See the new section of their website at: <https://wida.wisc.edu/teach/learners/engagement>.

## Assessment of Reading Readiness Update



For the 2018-19 school year, the requirement remains to annually assess each 4-year-old kindergarten to 2nd grade student in a school district or in a charter school for reading readiness. [Wis. Stats. 118.016](#)

requires each school board and the operator of each charter school to select the appropriate, valid, and reliable assessment of literacy fundamentals to be used. The school board or operator shall ensure that the assessment evaluates whether a pupil possesses phonemic awareness and letter sound knowledge.

In addition to the requirement to administer a literacy screener, the following conditions apply:

- The department shall pay to the school board or operator the per pupil cost of the selected assessment.
- The school board or operator of the charter school shall report the results of a pupil's assessment to the pupil's parent or guardian.
- The school board of the school district or operator of the charter school in which the pupil is enrolled shall provide a pupil whose assessment indicates that he or she is at risk of reading difficulty with interventions or remedial reading services, as described under [Wis. Stats. 121.02\(1\)\(c\)](#).

More information on the reading readiness requirements can be found at: [Reading Readiness Overview](#). In addition, an FAQ section can be found at: [Reading Readiness FAQ](#).



## NAEP Update



Schools participating in NAEP 2018-19 were notified in June and will receive another mailing in September with information on preparing for the assessment. Check the DAC Digest for details on when that mailing goes out, and DACs will receive an email notifying them of the mailing as well. NAEP testing this school year will be in grades 4, 8, and 12 and will include reading, mathematics, science, and some special studies. Thanks in advance to districts and schools for participation in NAEP this year.

If you have any questions please contact [Angela Dugas](#), Wisconsin's NAEP State Coordinator.

## Strategic Assessment Update - Building Assessment and Data Literacy in Wisconsin



The new assessment and data literacy e-learning modules will be piloted during the 2018-19 school year and are anticipated to be released for use in school districts in the 2019-20 school year. These modules feature four large topic areas: assessment literacy, data literacy, strategic assessment systems, and assessment in action. Each of the topic areas are broken into smaller units. The units can be completed individually, or as part of the larger module. The modules will be available through an online course, or via a presentation with a facilitator's guide to allow school districts to use a unit or module for a district-wide, school wide, or professional learning community topic of study.

SmartTeach is a free online/mobile application that is being developed to help teachers keep track of their students' learning progress and serve as a planning tool for future instruction. Classroom teachers can use the tool to collect, store, track, and analyze any type of classroom-level student activity or data event including formative assessment data such as: exit tickets, conferring sessions, student observations, peer assessments, or student self-assessments. The tool also provides a place to take anecdotal notes on student learning, track student learning with a customizable performance bar, and create and work with small groups of students.

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### Strategic Assessment Update (Continued from page 5)

The spring 2018 pilot of the SmartTeach application went well with 5 schools and 10 teachers participating. These classroom teachers provided feedback that informed the added features and enhancements that the application development team completed over the summer.

Check out the new features of the SmartTeach application by watching this [video](#) or using the [demonstration site](#). This site allows you to test drive the application with an artificial class to experience the basic functions, features, and classroom-level data analysis opportunities the tool provides for classroom teachers.

K-5 teachers (at least two within one school) are invited to join the fall SmartTeach pilot. Teachers will use the app and provide feedback to our application development team about the usability of the newly added features and suggest additional features that would enhance the tool.

#### What are the expectations for pilot participants?

- Optional 30-60 minute online training via web conference
- Use the SmartTeach application regularly
- [Join Google+ Community](#)
- Provide feedback (issues, concerns, ideas for improvement or enhancements) to DPI via survey

Please read the [pilot description](#) and fill out this [google form](#) if you are interested. **Your spot within the pilot program is not reserved until the form has been completed and submitted.**

Contact [Dana.Sommerfeld@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:Dana.Sommerfeld@dpi.wi.gov) with questions.

### Accountability Update



As you know, we are moving towards two accountability systems: the Accountability Report Cards under the state system, and the ESSA identification of schools in need of comprehensive and targeted support in the proposed federal system.

There are many similarities between the two systems, as well as important differences. We have posted an [updated Accountability Crosswalk](#) to explain those similarities and differences – and will continue to revise the crosswalk as details are confirmed, and as the rule-making process for the federal accountability system concludes.

We hope you find this newsletter and its contents beneficial. As the Office of Educational Accountability (OEA) and Office of Student Assessment (OSA) work to improve and refine this communication tool, we appreciate feedback and suggestions on the layout and content. Please contact Assessment at [osamail@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:osamail@dpi.wi.gov) and Accountability at [oeamail@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:oeamail@dpi.wi.gov).





### Are there any DPI resources for improving student achievement outcomes?

The new school year is starting, and student assessment data has been studied and analyzed by teacher teams across the state. What comes next in preparing teachers for the next academic year and ensuring student achievement outcomes grow? Mounting evidence suggests that providing teachers with access to high-quality, standards-aligned instructional materials and curriculum-based professional learning can result in improvement in student outcomes. The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Mathematics and Literacy Team aims to improve support for all teachers by ensuring that districts have the information they need to select high-quality instructional materials and to provide professional learning that supports effective implementation of those materials in English language arts and mathematics.

Resources to support equity for teachers and equity for students have been fully vetted by DPI around helping schools:

- Select rigorous academic standards
- Select high-quality, aligned instructional materials
- Provide ongoing professional learning opportunities on the selected material

Visit the [High-Quality Instructional Materials & Professional Learning within the Mathematics and Literacy team website](#) for more information. Contact [Connie Ellingson](#) for more information or with questions.

## FAQ...

**Reminder** – Each assessment has an FAQ webpage with scenarios/issues related to that specific assessment  
[ACT/Aspire/WorkKeys FAQ](#)      [Forward Exam FAQ](#)      [DLM FAQ](#)

**Q. Will there be a sample letter available to send home to parents with Individual Student Reports (ISR)?**  
 Yes, each assessment will have a sample parent letter (updated for 2018) that may be used to accompany ISRs when sent home to parents/guardians. These letters will be accessible via the specific assessment's data and results web page.

**Q. Are we permitted to post the Forward Exam Individual Student Reports (ISRs) on our secure parent portals?**  
 Yes. You may post the ISRs securely on your secure parent portals.

**Q. Where can I find information about testing data, scoring, and reporting?**  
 Each assessment has a data and results webpage in its submenu that is specific to that assessment. More information about each specific assessment's data and results may be found on those pages.

**Q. Where can I find important testing dates?**  
 Each assessment has a calendar webpage in its submenu that is specific to that assessment. More information about each specific assessment's key dates, deadlines, publication releases, etc., may be found on those pages.

**Q. Do I need to submit a DAC or DTC update form if nothing has changed?**  
 Yes, an update form needs to be completed annually even if no change has occurred.

## Building Accountability & Data Literacy

### New Report Card Requirements

As you know, a state law was passed last year [requiring new data in the report cards](#) about college and career readiness (CCR). The collection of these data elements will be through the WISEdata Roster System. The WISEdata Roster collection has been expanded to include CTEERS reporting (previously collected through manual spreadsheets) in 2018-19.

Given the high-profile nature of the report cards, we encourage all districts to pay particular attention to the quality and accuracy of your local data flowing into WISEdata through the Roster collection. Specifically, all districts are urged to assemble a Roster Team with an identified Roster Lead for the 2018-19 school year. The Roster Team should learn how to collect and enter CTEERS and CCR data into your local student information system. Knowing the Roster data will be reported publicly in Accountability Report Cards and on WISEdash, the Roster Team should understand the implications of submitting incorrect Roster data.

To aid the transition and to ensure a smooth and successful implementation, districts should familiarize themselves with resources on the [Roster landing page](#) and this [Career Education](#) webpage, which is particularly relevant. Also contact your SIS account manager for training resources pertaining to how your local SIS reporting operates for Roster. Districts may also submit a [Help Ticket](#) at any time for any WISEdata questions.

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